

REMARKS

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement dated April 23, 2003, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group V that comprises "[c]laims 1-3 (in part), 4-7 (in part), 8, 12, 13 (in part), 15-16 (in part), 17 and 18-28 (in part), drawn to fused piperidines (X = -CH₂-), classified in class 546, subclass 66." (April 23, 2003 Restriction Requirement, page 2).

Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement for an Election on the grounds that the reasons stated by the Examiner do not support his contention that separate searches would be required during the examination of the present application. One of skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily discerned that radical X in Applicants' generic structure could be any number of heterocyclic or alkyl moieties. Applicants do not believe that a serious burden would be imposed upon the Examiner to search the Applicants' claimed genus of compounds.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or believes further discussion will aid examination and advance prosecution of the application, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

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